

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5244

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FOR ASST. SECY. RICHARDSON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EI, SCUL, USIA

SUBJ: AMERICAN STUDIES IN IRELAND

AMBASSADOR, DCM AND PAO MET YESTERDAY WITH PRESIDENT THOMAS MURPHY OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN (UCD) AND SENIOR FACULTY COLLEAGUES.

1. UCD ENTHUSIASTICALLY ACCEPTS OUR PROPOSAL SUPPLY AN AMERICAN PROFESSOR FOR ACADEMIC YEARS 1974-5-6 IN FIELD OF AMERICAN STUDIES. THEY PREFER HISTORIAN, WITH WHICH WE AGREE. PRESIDENT MURPHY, RECENTLY RETURNED FROM SUCCESSFUL IVP VISIT TO AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES, TOLD US HE PROPOSES UTILIZE THIS THREE-YEAR PROGRAM AS THE BASIS FOR A PERMANENT "LECTURESHIP IN AMERICAN HISTORY" WITH HIS ULTIMATE GOAL THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CHAIR OF AMERICAN HISTORY OR AMERICAN STUDIES.

2. WE CONSIDER FOREGOING AS MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH IN OUR EFFORT TO ESTABLISH AMERICAN STUDIES IN IRISH UNIVERSITIES, ESPECIALLY AT A TIME WHEN IRELAND'S ENTRY INTO EC HAS BROUGHT ABOUT NOTICEABLE DECLINE IN INTEREST IN U.S. IN FAVOR OF CONTINENTAL EUROPE. FURTHERMORE, THIS COMMITMENT PRECEDES THE ESTABLISHMENT HERE OF SOVIET EMBASSY AND PUTS US AHEAD OF EFFORTS ALREADY IN PROCESS TO ESTABLISH A CHIEF OF

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SLAVONIC (READ RUSSIAN) STUDIES.

3. UCD OFFICIALS WILL SUBMIT WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS
CONCRETE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING SPECIFICATIONS FOR
AMERICAN HISTORY PROFESSOR. FYI: THEY TEND TO FEEL
THAT THE RIGHT PROFESSOR FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE YEARS
WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO CHANGING YEARLY, AND IN OUR
VIEW, THERE IS MERIT IN THIS IDEA AND IT WOULD BE
HELPFUL IF WE COULD FIND A DISTINGUISHED HISTORIAN WHO WOULD
ENJOY THE CHALLENGE OF THIS INTERESTING ASSIGNMENT. PERHAPS A
SUITABLE PROFESSOR WHO HAS RECENTLY RETIRED. IN ALL EVENTS, UCD
WILL WISH FURTHER CONSULTATION REGARDING INDIVIDUAL
TO BE CHOSEN.

4. EMBASSY HIGHLY GRATIFIED WITH UCD REACTION TO OUR
PROPOSALS AND EXTREMELY APPRECIATIVE OF YOUR SUPPORT
WHICH HAS MADE THIS BREAKTHROUGH POSSIBLE. MOORE

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